

Finland

Background

Finland was a province and then a Duch under Sweden from the 12th to the 19th centuries. It gained complete independence in 1917. During World War II, Finland successfully defended its independence in WW2 against Russia. In the next half century, Finland transformed from a farming economy to a modern industrial economy with the annual income the highest in Western Europe for the average citizen. They have been a member of the EU since 1995, and was the only Nordic state to join the euro single currency at its initiation in January 1999. In the 21st century, the key features of Finland's modern welfare state are high quality education, promotion of equality, and a national social welfare system which is currently challenged by an aging population and the fluctuations of an Export-driven economy



Population/Religion

The population of Finland: 5,238,460

Age structure: 0-14 years: 16.9% (male 449,548/female 433,253)
15-64 years: 66.7% (male 1,768,996/female 1,727,143)
65 years and over: 16.4% (male 344,798/female 514,722) (2007 est.)



Religious Groups

73.8% of Finland's population is Evangelical Lutheran
1.1% Finnish (Greek) Orthodox
1.6% other
23.5% unknown

Ethnic groups: Finn 93.4%, Swede 5.7%, Russian 0.4%, Estonian 0.2%, Roma (Gypsy) 0.2%, Sami 0.1% All citizens in Finland over the age of 15 can read, and write. Finnish is the official language of Finland, though many citizens speak Swedish, Russian, and Sami.



Government

- In Finland the President is elected for a six year term and the government is considered a Parliamentary Republic.
- The current president of Finland is Sauli NIINISTO
- Finland was granted independence from Russia in December 6, 1917 and they celebrate a holiday every year in honor of this.
- Their Legal system is the civil law system based on the Swedish model.
- To become a citizen you need to have at least 1 parent that is a citizen of Finland. You also need to be a resident for 6 years to qualify for Naturalization.
- Finland's National Anthem is "Maamme" (Our Land) and It has been in use since 1848; although never officially adopted by law, the anthem has been popular since it was first sung by a student group in 1848.
- Finland has a similar Government to the US using three Branches of government which are the Judicial, Legislative, and Executive.



Economy

Finland has a highly industrialized, largely free-market economy with per capita GDP (gross domestic product) almost as high as that of Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, or Sweden. Trade is important, with exports accounting for over one-third of GDP in recent years. Finland is historically competitive in manufacturing wood, metals, engineering, telecommunications, and electronics industries. Finland excels in export of technology and manufactured parts. They primarily rely on raw goods and energy to produce there materials.



Geography

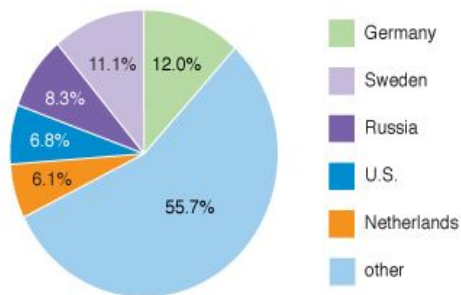
- Finland is primarily in Northern Europe
- Finland's total land area is approximately 303,815 sq km which is about half of the size of Texas for comparison.
- This country borders Norway, Sweden and Russia.
- The climate is mostly cold temperate but comparatively mild because of moderating influence of the North Atlantic Current, Baltic

Sea, and more than 60,000 lakes.

- The terrain is mostly low, flat to rolling plains with lakes and low hills

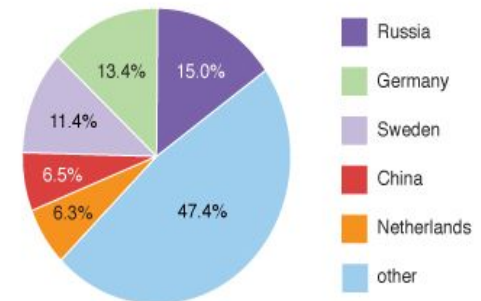
Foreign Trade

Major export destinations (2014)



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Major import sources (2014)



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Finland trades with many countries, from China, to the United States. Finland brings in Oil, electric machinery, chemical products, and more. Finland's main exports include metals, wood, wooden products, machinery, and more.

Education

In Finland, the overall literacy rate is at 100% throughout the country. Finland gives an equal opportunity for everyone to get an education with free schooling.

MOST EFFICIENT EDUCATION SYSTEMS		EFFICIENCY SCORES	PISA RANK (2012 Maths)
1	FINLAND	87,8	5
2	KOREA	86,7	1
3	CZECH REPUBLIC	84,4	14
4	HUNGARY	84,1	24
5	JAPAN	83,9	2
6	NEW ZEALAND	83,3	12
7	SLOVENIA	83,3	10
8	AUSTRALIA	81,2	9
9	SWEDEN	80,6	23
10	ICELAND	79,4	17

Source: GEMS Education Solutions

Sources cited:

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